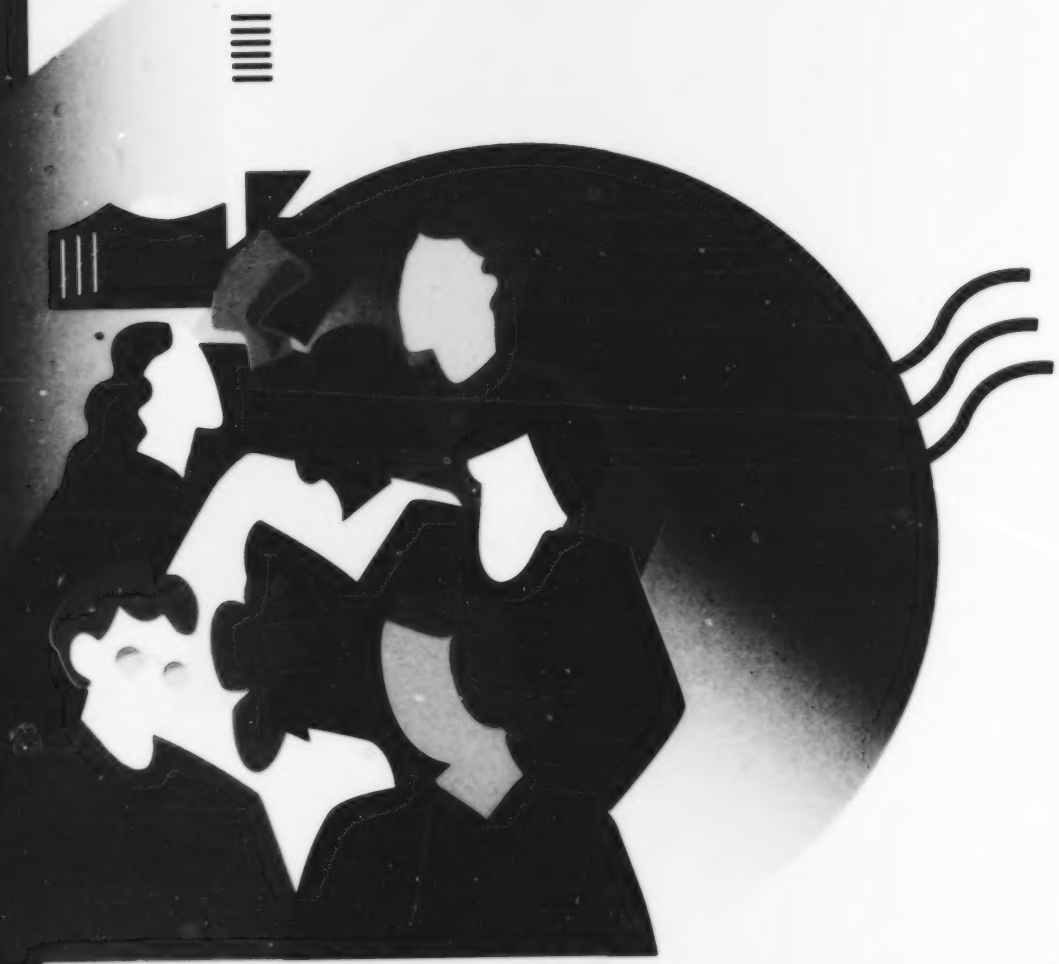
47th ANNUAL DPI/NGO CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT



"WE THE PEOPLES: BUILDING PEACE"

47th ANNUAL DPI/NGO CONFERENCE

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FINAL REPORT

WE THE PEOPLES: BUILDING PEACE

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Introduction

THE 1994 ANNUAL DPI/NGO CONFERENCE, "We the Peoples: Building Peace", highlighted the deepening involvement of the NGO community in the promotion of peace in today's rapidly changing world. As Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated in his opening address to the Conference: "The vast enterprise of building peace presupposes that non-governmental organizations should be involved at every stage." This year's Conference amply demonstrated the impressive scale and range of activities being undertaken by the non-governmental community, including efforts to promote a sustainable peace process at the local level, in response to the many crises and conflicts around the world.

During the Conference a consensus emerged that if the underlying causes of such crises and conflicts are to be addressed, a broad range of actors must be involved. In his An *Agenda for Peace*, the Secretary General argued that peace in the largest sense cannot be accomplished by the United Nations and Governments alone. Non-governmental organizations, as well as academic institutions, parliamentarians, business and professional communities, the media and the public at large; must all participate in the peace-building process, he asserted.

Bearing this in mind, the panellists explored ways in which NGOs can actively assist in mobilizing Governments, the media and the public to ensure an adequate national and international response to situations where emergency relief and conflict resolution are required. Lessening the tragic impact of such crises requires both improved early warning systems and careful post-emergency monitoring and support. NGOs, with their grass-roots involvement and knowledge, can play an important role in both these areas, in addition to their traditional activities of the provision of emergency relief and advocacy.

As the Secretary-General has pointed out, there is now the opportunity as well as the necessity for the United Nations and NGOs to intensify their partnership, so that together we can work more effectively in promoting peace.

Samir Sanbar
UN Assistant Secretary-General
for Public Information

Keynote address by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to the 47th DPI/NGO Conference

ON BEHALF *of the United Nations and for myself, I welcome you. I want you to consider this your home. Until recently, these words might have caused astonishment. The United Nations was considered to be a forum for sovereign States alone. Within the space of a few short years, this attitude has changed. Non-governmental organizations are now considered full participants in international life.*

This change is largely due to the quick succession of historic events which we have witnessed in recent years. The fall of the Berlin wall, the end of the cold war and of East-West antagonism, shattered the ideological screen which concealed the reality of international relations. Political, economic, social and cultural phenomena have been revealed in their true dimensions and in their profound complexity.

Today, we are well aware that the international community must address a human community that is profoundly transnational. For a long time, the international order was regarded as political and firmly established. Now we must learn to accept and to deal with a world that is both social and mobile. The movement of wealth, people, capital and ideas is as important today as control of territory was yesterday. We, therefore, must build a framework which takes into account not only political issues, but economic behaviour and social and cultural aspirations.

Non-governmental organizations are a basic form of popular representation in the present-day world. Their participation in international organizations is, in a way, a guarantee of the political legitimacy of those international organizations. It is therefore not surprising that in a short space of time we have witnessed the emergence of many new non-governmental organizations.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali delivering the keynote address to the 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference. To his right is Dr. Kay C. Greene, President of the 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, and to his left is Mr. Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. Behind the Secretary-General are Mr. Isma Kittani (left) and Mr. Hervé Cassan.

Today, non-governmental organizations continue to increase in number on every continent. This is true in developed countries: in France, 54,000 new associations have been established since 1987; in Italy 40 per cent of the associations have been set up within the last 15 years. This phenomenon is also occurring in developing countries: within a short space of time 10,000 non-governmental organizations have been established in Bangladesh, 21,000 in the Philippines and 27,000 in Chile. In Eastern Europe, since the fall of communism, non-governmental organizations have been playing an increasingly important role in people's lives. Their development is inseparable from the aspiration for freedom which, in various forms, is today shaking international society.

You have chosen as your topic for this year the role of non-governmental organizations in peace-building. This is a particularly ambitious and innovative subject. We are well aware of what non-governmental organizations do in social, cultural and humanitarian fields, as well as of their work to protect human rights and to promote development. But we do not often have occasion to think about what these organizations can do for international peace and security.

I, for my part, am convinced that non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in the achievement of the ideal established by the Charter of the United Nations: the maintenance and establishment of peace.

We all know that States play the preponderant role in this area. We all know that the Charter confers the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace upon the Security Council. But I have sought, in *An Agenda for Peace*, to emphasize as clearly as possible that "peace in the largest sense cannot be accomplished by the United Nations system or by Governments alone. Non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, parliamentarians, business and professional communities, the media and the public at large must all be involved."

This is the point I wish to stress to you. For, to paraphrase an old saying: peace is too important to be entrusted to States alone. Accepting this perspective, non-governmental organizations can, I believe, pursue their activities on three fronts.

In the search for peace, non-governmental organizations must obtain the means — and we must help them to do so — to engage in assistance, mobilization and democratization activities, all at the same time. I should like to consider these three types of activity with you for a few minutes.

With regard to assistance, non-governmental organizations have a key role to play — and many are already doing so. In fact, in the area of peace-keeping, non-governmental organization activities have to a large extent paralleled the changes which have taken place within the United Nations itself. Today, the mandates of United Nations operations go far beyond the standard definition of "peace-keeping" employed in the past.

These operations reflect recent international developments, in that conflicts increasingly are taking place within, rather than between, countries. Every day the United Nations deals with civil wars, secessions, partitions, ethnic clashes and tribal conflicts. It will be understood how difficult the mission of the United Nations then becomes, obliged as it is to respect the fragile balance between the sovereignty of States and a mandate to intervene.

Moreover, the role of these operations is no longer confined to simply deploying a neutral presence between two belligerent parties. The aim of the new operations is the making, and indeed the building, of peace. This can involve electoral assistance, humanitarian aid, administrative activities, the rebuilding of roads and bridges, rural de-mining operations, the promotion of democracy and the protection of human rights.

"It is essential that the activities of non-governmental organizations and those of the United Nations should complement each other."

In *An Agenda for Peace* I stated explicitly that "this wider mission for the world Organization will demand the concerted attention and effort of individual States, of regional and non-governmental organizations, and of all of the United Nations system". Indeed, the vast enterprise of building peace presupposes that non-governmental organizations will be involved at every stage.

In the field of preventive diplomacy, non-governmental organizations, because of their familiarity with the situation on the ground, are well placed to play a part in early warning machinery by drawing the attention of Governments to nascent crises and emerging conflicts.

With regard to peacemaking, there is wide recognition of the humanitarian and social work done by non-governmental organizations, generally under perilous and difficult conditions.

Lastly, with regard to post-conflict peace-building, non-governmental organizations can do a good deal to help fragile Governments and destitute populations find the confidence and the resources to make peace last.

But it is essential that the activities of non-governmental organizations and those of the United Nations should complement each other. I am sure that you will reflect at length on how best to coordinate non-governmental organization activities with those of the United Nations.

We can all recall the difficulties, misunderstandings and differences which have arisen from time to time between the world Organization and certain non-governmental organizations in the context of specific operations.

Today it must be stated quite clearly that we must all make an honest and fundamental reappraisal. We want not to lay blame at anyone's door, but to avoid any repetition of events which undermine peace—the objective which together we are pursuing. Perhaps the United Nations has not yet fully appreciated the importance of the role of the non-governmental organizations in the field. Perhaps it does not cooperate enough with institutions on the spot which can provide essential support.

But non-governmental organizations must also understand the political complexity of any peace-keeping operation. Perhaps in their desire to resolve problems urgently they do not appreciate how much time is needed to settle any

conflict. Perhaps their involvement in activities sometimes prevents them from grasping all aspects of a conflict. Perhaps on occasion they are too quick to point a finger, whereas the overriding aim is to reconcile the belligerents.

I believe that the time has now come to tackle these problems so that together we can act still more effectively to promote peace. You can rely on me to undertake an in-depth analysis of how to better coordinate our common activities. I am confident that you, for your part, will contribute to this analysis through your deliberations. This is my sincere expectation.

Yet I hope you will do still more. For, as I have said, non-governmental organizations must also, in my view, undertake essential mobilization activities. The mobilization of States and public opinion by non-governmental organizations is an essential element in international activities to promote peace.

As you are aware, the end of the cold war has, in some cases, had untoward effects. Certain regions of the world have suddenly lost strategic interest for the great Powers. As a result, these Powers have been sorely tempted to leave those regions to their own devices, to let them sink into economic underdevelopment, or to founder in political disorder.

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations, I know that it is sometimes difficult to convince States to commit themselves to peace-keeping activities which, none the less, are essential. For States to commit personnel, *matériel* and money in the service of peace and in the framework of United Nations activities, it is often necessary for national public opinion to lead the way.

It is the non-governmental organizations which, in most cases, have helped to clear this way. I wish to state it to you as clearly as possible — I need the mobilizing power of non-governmental organizations.

But here again, each of us must consider the matter in depth. Just as the United Nations must constantly strive to transcend partisan differences in order to uphold the higher interests of peace, the non-governmental organizations must also secure their independence with regard to all States.

"Non-governmental organizations are a basic form of popular representation in the present-day world. Their participation in international organizations is, in a way, a guarantee of the political legitimacy of those international organizations."

This is a basic condition for their credibility. Non-governmental organizations are infinitely diverse by virtue of their size, statutes, fields of activity, methods, means and objectives. It is understandable that States are sometimes tempted to try to utilize or control non-governmental organizations in order to place them indirectly in the service of their own national policies.

It is quite obvious that in order to be able to carry out fully their role as a stimulus for the international community in promoting peace, non-governmental organizations must be beyond reproach in the political field.

I know that this is not an easy task and that it entails constant and continual work. But I also know that I can rely on you to be vigilant. For, let me repeat, your independence is essential for you to be able to be full participants in the international peace process.

Indeed, the mobilization mission that the international community expects of you will be possible only if you really represent the profound aspirations of all the integral parts of international society. In other words, this mobilization can be truly meaningful only if it is based on a third element: your activities for democratization.

In *An Agenda for Peace* I had occasion to reflect on the necessary democratization of international relations and of the United Nations. I stressed the fact that, for me, "democracy at all levels is essential to attain peace". Yes, democracy must be the guiding principle both in relations between States and within States themselves. And I believe that non-governmental organizations have a major role to play in the democratization process.

As I said at the beginning of my statement, the international order in which we must conduct our work today is radically different from the one in which those who drafted the Charter operated. We find ourselves today within a world system that has profound doubts about its own structures and, strangely, about the most fundamental of these: the very notion of the State.

Undoubtedly, not only will the twentieth century have been the century of the downfall of empires — the consequences of which we have yet to fully experience or sustain — but the twentieth century also will have been the century in which doubt was cast on the nation State.

With tragic uncertainty, certain peoples seek to reconcile the rational nature

of the State with the urges of micro-nationalism. Elsewhere, it is the very substance of the State that is collapsing. Social integration has become more difficult even within Western societies. This decaying of institutions has led to the resurgence or rebirth of primitive ties of solidarity, many of which, alas, seem prone to engender fanaticism and a desire to exclude.

Accordingly, it is necessary to provide the men and women in today's world with a framework that will enable them, amidst the practical challenges of concrete situations, to mobilize themselves in favour of the great ideals of the international community.

It is the non-governmental organizations which, in most cases, make it possible for these complex and often diffuse aspirations to take form, and to flourish. In this way, you are carrying out an essential representational role. You are an essential part of the legitimacy without which no international activity can be meaningful. Often, it is you who, on a day-to-day basis, constitute the link between democracy and peace.

Indeed, the democratic imperative is inseparable from the activities that we must carry out to promote peace. In my opinion, diplomacy that consolidates peace and democracy is of the utmost importance at the close of the twentieth century. I will pay close attention to your ideas on how to strengthen the link between peace and democracy.

I am convinced that, just as human rights are universal, democracy can be adapted to all cultures. I have already said that human rights are the common language of mankind. The same holds true for democracy. Democracy, too, is the political expression of our common heritage. For it must be understood that democracy is not a model to be copied from certain States but a goal to be reached by all peoples.

Non-governmental organizations have a crucial role to play in this area. They can help develop effective ways of spreading the ideas of peace and democracy. They can take part in the birth and development of democratic institutions within States. They can also serve as vigilant monitors, helping to guarantee respect for democracy throughout the world.

I should like, in conclusion, to carry this line of thought even further.

Today, we are all searching for an international order that is acceptable to all. Nevertheless, we also know how profoundly ambiguous the very notion of an international order is. For the concept of an international order—if there is one at all—fulfils various different functions in the lives of States and peoples. It has a political and an ideological dimension, as well as an economic and a cultural one. It can be used by the very powerful to buttress a legal argument, and it can also be used by the very weak in support of a militant speech. In short, what we call the international order is both the expression of the present-day balance of power and an idealization of a society in evolution.

In order for every woman and every man in the world to perceive their true stake in the great ideals of the world Organization, it is necessary to have many more institutions such as yours. Only thus shall we be faithful to the urgent exhortation with which the Preamble to the Charter begins: We the Peoples of the United Nations.

Peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building

THE OPENING SESSION *of the 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference examined the new problems that have emerged in the world since the end of the cold war. The examination focused on the ability of the international community to respond to crises and on its ability to build peace according to the model outlined by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in* An Agenda for Peace.

Acknowledging a change in the character and an increase in the complexity of crises, the speakers addressed the need for a stronger and more clearly defined international legal and logistical framework which would permit the mobilization of collective action in response to the challenges faced by the world community. They argued that strengthened international structures, whether intended to provide disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, human rights monitoring or collective security, are increasingly necessary to meet the growing demands placed on the United Nations.

The session underscored the growing recognition of the importance of non-State actors. Each of the six speakers cited NGO support as vital to the success of global collective action as much for their vision, political advocacy and educational work as for their work in the field. NGOs are the independent voice of the world's citizens and the first evidence of an international civil society in the making.

MR. BERNARD KOUCHNER, President, Association pour l'Aide Humanitaire and Member of the European Parliament, stated that there was a crisis of confidence between NGOs and the United Nations, as well as a growing concern within the NGO community, born of the events in Somalia, Bosnia and Rwanda. These concerns, said Mr. Kouchner, would be remedied only when the international community ceased to rely on humanitarian aid as a substitute for long-term political solutions and began instead to extend and consolidate the present system of "intervention", preferably to be called "humanitarian solidarity actions", in addition to creating a preventive early-warning system.

Mr. Bernard Kouchner

Noting that there had been a change in the world's consciousness towards humanitarian crises, he attributed the shift to the change in focus of the activities of NGOs as they move from simply relieving the consequences of disaster to calling for preventive measures in order to avoid catastrophes before they occur. While NGOs, and later the UN, have increasingly called for intervention on behalf of those suffering, international action has always been delayed due to a reluctance to act on the part of national decision makers. While a State always has the right to claim its national sovereignty, the international community has the responsibility to respond adequately to cases where States are found to be violating human rights, he noted. He proposed the creation of a standing "human rights army", funded by a fraction of every Member State's military budget and controlled by an expanded Security Council, in which the five permanent members had abandoned the use of the veto power.

Mr. Kouchner concluded by stating that the international community needed both an early warning system and a means of explaining such an international system to the peoples of the world. NGOs, he stated, are ideally suited to bring this message to peoples at the grass-roots levels, "from man to man, from woman to woman and from heart to heart".

MS. JOËLLE TANGUY, Executive Director, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), USA, explored the role of non-governmental organizations in building peace, particularly the emergence of the humanitarian movement as a new social phenomenon. Calling NGOs the "solidarity team", Ms. Tanguy said that NGOs represent the strongest expression ever of a transnational civil society in the making. In a crisis situation, NGOs, such as MSF, are able to bypass the traditional geopolitical boundaries to provide immediate assistance in an

Ms. Joëlle Tanguy

> *"Silence is death. Let us focus on preserving our independent conscience and our independent voice."*
>
> **Ms. Joëlle Tanguy**

effort to preserve life and to restore people's ability to "choose and to build their own peace".

Also, in a world of constant upheaval, where new stories vie for sensational headlines, humanitarian action carried out by NGOs, said Ms. Tanguy, focuses the world's attention and prevents "compassion from being dissolved into oblivion". There is a risk, however, Ms. Tanguy cautioned, of NGOs funnelling their energies to "the limitless development of technical assistance", thus slowly disconnecting themselves from the essence of the non-governmental movement, namely, being the independent conscience of mankind.

"Silence is death", warned Ms. Tanguy. She called upon NGOs to raise their voices lest they become a part of "the world's silent inertia", which killed tens of thousands of people in Ethiopia ten years ago and was doing the same in Rwanda. "Constructive criticism, absolutely. Politically involved, never", advised Ms. Tanguy. At a time when the NGO community is building a more productive relationship with the United Nations, Ms. Tanguy stressed that the independent voice of the volunteers on the ground might be more than ever the key to tomorrow's peace.

MR. IQBAL RIZA, Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, spoke about the increasing

Mr. Iqbal Riza

role of the United Nations as the provider of collective security to a world no longer divided along cold-war lines. Mr. Riza focused on the requisite factors to credibly and sustainably support the UN in such a role.

According to Mr. Riza, the principal threat to the development of such a sustainable system is the mismatch between requirements and resources. Noting that the demand for United Nations operations is increasing, he cautioned the international community not to undermine its system of collective security by not responding promptly to the growing demands placed upon it.

If such a system were to be put into place, explained Mr. Riza, it must rest on three "pillars". First, the international community must develop a set of principles for intervention which could serve as guidelines for consistent action. Such guidelines must be drawn openly and collectively and must emanate from a transparent decision-making process. Without such a system, warned Mr. Riza, the UN would not be able to mount an effective response and would be open to the accusation that it was acting selectively in the interest of the great Powers. Secondly, Member States must make human and financial resources available to the United Nations. The availability of *matériel*, financing and well-trained, well-armed and effectively led personnel has great implications for the future credibility of UN action, said Mr. Riza. Thirdly, the nations of the world must show resolve under pressure and must not rush to withdraw their forces if an operation becomes dangerous or if it requires more time than anticipated. Such resolve would enhance the credibility of collective security and would ultimately help deter violations of sovereignty and of the formation of complex emergencies which require international intervention.

If such a system were to work in the long run, argued Mr. Riza, it was vital that Governments engage their populations in debate about both national and UN policy decisions, defining realistic objectives and assessing the risks of involvement in each particular peacekeeping operation. In this regard, leadership by NGOs, as informed, independent and credible entities, is vitally important both in setting the parameters of the debate and in putting setbacks in their proper perspectives.

MR. SOREN JESSEN-PETERSEN, Director of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees liaison office in New York, spoke to the participants about the state of humanitarian action throughout the world, and described the recent changes in the character of humanitarian crises as well as the

Mr. Soren Jessen-Petersen

changes in international response. NGOs, he asserted, are a vital part of the international community's response to the growing global crises.

In the last ten years, said Mr. Jessen-Petersen, the crises, which generated millions of refugees, had been caused primarily by internal wars in which broad segments of the population had been subject to inter-ethnic violence and to massive violations of human rights. As a result of these crises, the number of refugees had grown from 8 million to 23 million, with an additional 25 million people displaced within their own countries.

While facing a number of constraints, principally the constraints placed on international action by national sovereignty, the international community had recognized that it must create stronger institutional and legal structures that would permit it to reach the victims on the ground, provide for their needs, protect them from physical harm and intervene on their behalf if necessary. It is precisely for their ability to provide rapid and effective assistance to refugees in various crises that NGOs are the most important "non-UN partners" of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Close cooperation with NGOs, said Mr. Jessen-Petersen, is vital for the UNHCR to fulfil its mission of providing for the victims of war while the international community attempts to resolve the conflicts which have disrupted their lives.

MS. BIANCA JAGGER, human rights advocate and film producer, told the Conference participants that, although

Ms. Bianca Jagger

the world has changed in character and complexity since the end of the cold war and the UN is being given greater responsibility, the Organization has not been given the resources to cope with its new role. Throughout her presentation, Ms. Jagger emphasized the need for a new definition of the United Nations and of its peace-keeping capabilities to meet the complex and increasing needs of the present times.

Ms. Jagger suggested four steps which could be taken to strengthen the United Nations and to bring its capabilities in line with the demands. First, said Ms. Jagger, the international community should consider the establishment of an independent standing force controlled by the United Nations, possibly drawn from a redefined North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Secondly, she suggested that a new conceptualization of national sovereignty had to be developed, in which its limits were more clearly defined, and in which violations which warrant international involvement were clearly articulated. Thirdly, the United Nations must develop the ability to respond quickly to crises and disasters, at the very least stockpiling the resources and equipment which would permit it to respond without having to build an operation from scratch every time there was a crisis. Fourthly, Ms. Jagger suggested that the UN should welcome the participation of NGOs and individuals in its relief and assistance.

Ms. Jagger concluded her presentation by stating that if the UN had fallen short of fulfilling its mandate, it was because its Member States failed to provide adequately for its needs, for "if we are to see a stronger, more effective United Nations, we must marshal the will to build it".

MR. PIERRE SANÉ, Secretary-General, Amnesty International, examined the role of human rights in the peace process as defined by Secretary-

Mr. Pierre Sané

General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's *An Agenda for Peace*. Focusing in turn on each of the Agenda's four themes — preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building — Mr. Sané examined the role of both NGOs and the international community in the incorpo-

ration of respect for human rights into the peace process.

Stating that "effective, long-term peacemaking means putting human rights at the heart of the [peace] process", and insisting on the need for the political will to ensure that these rights are respected, he stressed that a commitment to uphold human rights by the international community must include their enforcement in the field, the monitoring of their violation in peace-keeping and military operations and the building of institutions to ensure their permanent enforcement.

NGOs, said Mr. Sané, have the responsibility of ensuring their Governments' adherence to human rights accords by raising their voices whenever and wherever basic rights are being denied. It is the responsibility of NGOs to bring known violations to the political attention of their Governments and actively to warn of looming crises. It is the responsibility of NGOs, as much as of the UN, he concluded, to make human rights issues part of the world's political agenda.

The essential continuum: from emergencies to long-term sustainable human development

THE INITIAL PLENARY *of the second day of the 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference focused on the issues of humanitarian assistance, human development and social justice and the links between these and sustainable peace.*

While the response to natural disasters by and large remained the short-term delivery of material and aid to provide for the displaced and to assist local reconstruction, it was recognized that modern complex crises defy both short-term solutions and the simple provision of aid. According to the panel's assessment, current social, economic and military crises are attributable to accumulated pressures resulting from individual failures of the developmental process. Consequently, the international community had to address the sources of the problems in addition to simply providing material aid.

It has become necessary to integrate humanitarian intervention into long-term developmental strategies. While this integration is vital, the panel also emphasized that previous developmental models are flawed. Long-term developmental strategies have to be addressed in terms of the environmental, social and security issues which have been identified as the most likely sources of instability. Due to multiple and profound crises, the entire idea of development, said the panel, has to be rethought.

MR. PETER HANSEN, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, said that the increase of complex man-made disasters poses new challenges for the United Nations emergency response system, especially since it is the civilians who bear the brunt of the effects of the fighting. Post-emergency circumstances require political and economic security in order to implement the peace agreements and recovery programmes, he said. As indispensable elements for the transition from relief to rehabilitation, Mr. Hansen emphasized the need to achieve an early reintegration of combatants from military to civilian activities, as well as the success of demining programmes. These elements, Mr. Hansen pointed out, accentuate the role of NGOs because of their inherent flexibility and capacity to respond quickly. He explained that NGOs have become full partners in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and in the advocacy of humanitarian objectives.

According to Mr. Hansen, a set of general principles has to be adopted by the international community in order to guide humanitarian action in conflict situations. These include:

(a) The reaffirmation of free, safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance and the role of humanitarian diplomacy in that regard;
(b) The need of greater collaboration with NGOs engaged in this field;
(c) The need to ensure security and protection of all relief personnel; and
(d) The importance of shielding humanitarian assistance against the effects of sanctions, particularly in relation to vulnerable groups.

In the context of the recent World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which has provided a timely opportunity to underscore the urgent need for prevention and preparedness measures, Mr. Hansen urged the NGOs to become more involved in the field of planning and implementation of low-cost and easy-to-apply disaster-reduction measures at the local and community levels.

Addressing the second day of the 47th DPI/NGO Conference are, from left, Ms. Inge Kaul, Mr. Preminder Nath Jain, Mr. Vincent M. Piola, Ms. Ingrid Washinawatok and Mr. Peter Hansen.

The development continuum is not a linear process but, indeed, a complex and circular one, Mr. Hansen said. Each country needs a tailored, country-specific approach; thus, there is a need to address the underlying causes of crises and to adopt a fundamental rethinking of development policies.

MS. INGRID WASHINAWATOK, Chair, NGO Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, said that only by understanding the causes of war and violence could one know why there is no peace. Roots of conflicts lay, she stated, in inequality, injustice and ideologies of racial, religious, economic and political superiority. The roots of war go deep, she said. "Until peace is made with Earth, there will be no peace in the human community", she stated. Destroying natural resources, destroying the planet's ability to provide sustenance, only aggravated the world's misery and poverty, injustice and discontent. "As we destroy the ability of the earth to sustain us, we lose our ability to address the chronic needs of the poor, the hungry and the landless", Ms. Washinawatok emphasized, adding that the current economic order is destroying the real wealth of the planet. As an example, she drew a comparison between the Indian way to grow corn, which had existed for hundreds or even thousands of years, and the new technology that has led to a higher production but has poisoned the land through chemical fertilizers and pesticides. "Water is life", said Ms. Washinawatok. Wantonly to pollute the waters of this planet means to violate the laws of nature. Ultimately, the world would be deprived of life. She invited NGOs to "unlock the silence and work together to make things better for the future generations".

MS. INGE KAUL, Director, Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), suggested that long-term sustainable human development is not a reality but should be a goal. In fact, overall development is in a crisis, she said. There is an increase in man-made disasters, unemployment and migration are on the rise, violence and crime are spreading, and people throughout the world are searching for a new meaning of development and are becoming concerned about their future. The future of all nations is not only a matter of fate, Ms. Kaul emphasized; in large measure, it is a matter of policy choice. According to Ms. Kaul, the world is facing a triple crisis:

"As we destroy the ability of the earth to sustain us, we lose our ability to address the chronic needs of the poor, the hungry and the landless."

Ms. Ingrid Washinawatok

(a) The environmental crisis. This was addressed in Agenda 21, but progress is proceeding very slowly and hesitantly;

(b) The social crisis. Much of today's development is oblivious to human needs. While the world's income has grown sevenfold during the past five decades, one fifth of humankind lives in poverty;

(c) The security crisis. The weapons of the past, which were thought necessary for international peace and security, have become "boomerangs" through the proliferation of nuclear materials.

Ms. Kaul suggested a ten-point plan to restore the long-term social development process. She advised NGOs to use the World Summit for Social Development to rethink the development process and to address the current crises. She proposed investment in basic social services for all, including reproductive health and family planning services, and credit for all to foster self-employment and small-scale enterprises. Secondly, she noted that the Fourth World Conference on Women should concentrate on removing the barriers that hold women back. Also, Ms. Kaul urged NGOs to contribute to new and innovative funding sources for more people-centred development activities, since "it is cheaper to invest upstream in problem-solving than to take curative measures downstream".

In addition, it is time to strengthen the partnership between the UN and the business community: the private sector already contribute about 70 per cent of total investment. Beyond these aims, Ms. Kaul also stressed the need for better preparedness for emergencies and crises by establishing a global safety net, securing the availability of financial and other resources for the United Nations to respond to natural and man-made disasters and strengthening the role of the NGOs and civil society.

Humanitarian assistance

This parallel session focused on the function and characteristics of humanitarian missions as a first step towards sustainable development. It was generally recognized that international humanitarian assistance requires coordinated effort between national Governments, international organizations and humanitarian non-governmental organizations.

Being aware of the great harm of a calamity to its victims and the effects of the psychosocial trauma which accompanies the collapse of the infrastructures which have maintained daily lives, relief organizations have learned to react quickly with a broad array of goods and services to return a sense of normalcy, even if minimal, to the affected populations. While the emphasis of NGOs is shifting to prevention and setting up physical and social structures, traditional responses continue to be the heart of humanitarian assistance.

MR. RICHARD JOLLY, then Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, began his address by describing NGOs as the

Mr. Richard Jolly

"salt of the earth and the conscience of the United Nations". He paid tribute to NGOs which are major actors in providing and setting standards for speedy response in emergency situations. Before addressing the question of humanitarian assistance in emergency situations, he cautioned that the world should not forget the "silent emergencies" which are killing thousands of children each year in developing countries. Regarding the response to emergency situations, he mentioned four areas of humanitarian concerns: first, the need to address the psycho-social agony of children in crisis situations — "Children in Sarajevo beg for the normalcy of going to school", he explained; secondly, the need to respond rapidly to a crisis situation; thirdly, the need for more attention to be given peace education; and, finally, the need to strengthen the people in the community. For a community to survive, he said, it must have the social structure and the skills of the people to rebuild and maintain it.

He then urged the NGO community to support a seven-point agenda. First, he called for a complete ban on the production, use and stockpiling of landmines. Secondly, he expressed the need for a commitment to disaster preparedness. Thirdly, Mr. Jolly called for more involvement of all people, particularly women, in disaster relief and preparedness. He then cautioned the international community not to neglect the importance of health education when providing relief assistance. Mr. Jolly stressed the importance of strengthening the relationship between intergovernmental organizations and the NGO community. On the relationship between provision of humanitarian assistance and the military, Mr. Jolly stated that while the military could be utilized to provide such assistance under certain circumstances, humanitarian activities "must not be politicized, nor militarized". Finally, he stressed the importance of moving rapidly from relief to rehabilitation and development since it , is "development that, in turn, builds disaster prevention."

MR. PAULO COSTA, Chairman, Rotary International Advisory Committee on the United Nations, opened his statement by saying that NGOs' input had been part of the UN decision-making process from the very start: NGO consultants had been among those who had pressed for the change from "We the States of the United Nations" to "We the Peoples of the United Nations" in the Preamble to the Charter, he said.

Focusing on the contributions which NGOs could make in the areas of disaster relief and hunger alleviation, Mr. Costa elaborated on the Rotary fund-raising activities, which last year alone raised more than one million dollars for locally administered relief efforts. Rotary has always been keen, he said, to mobilize community resources and expertise to overcome the problems. Increasingly, Rotarians, he said, are setting up mechanisms — in advance — to help prevent the crises caused by disasters. Many of them have taken the lead in their communities and advocate civil planning, engineering and construction methods in order to minimize future damage caused by typhoons, floods and earthquakes. Also, as it is mostly chronic malnutrition, not famine, that causes hunger-related deaths, Rotary clubs have also focused on both large- and small-scale nutrition and hunger-alleviation projects. This is all the more important, Mr. Costa stated, because children suffer the most from the deprivation of calories and protein. Rotarians were realistic, Mr. Costa said; they knew they could not solve "everyone's problems", but if all NGOs wanted "to do something for someone, someplace", together they could help change the world, he concluded.

MONSIGNOR BRIAN WALSH, Chairman, Working Group on World Refugees, Caritas Internationalis, said that his organization is an international federation of grass-roots social agencies organized in some 150 countries under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church.

Caritas Internationalis, whose strength lies in its closeness to people at the community level, works to develop a commitment towards positive participation in the social development process

"The international community must send a clear message to all concerned emphasizing the need for fully respecting international humanitarian law."

Mr. Peter Hansen

and partnership in times of disaster. He echoed the voice of Mrs. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who said that "NGOs are the grass-roots link for international humanitarian structures".

Serving in emergency situations as a channel for funding sources, he said, Caritas Internationalis responds to immediate needs and seeks to develop local planning structures.

As man-made and natural emergencies multiply, there is a need, he noted, to establish the capacity to respond effectively and immediately. At the time of a recent hurricane which occurred in the United States, Monsignor Walsh said, he advocated the use of the military to ensure an immediate response to the ensuing disaster.

MR. MOHAMMED AL-HADDID, Vice-President, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and President, Jordanian Red Crescent, spoke about the contribution that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has made all over the world, particularly in Jordan. The International Federation, the world's largest international humanitarian NGO, with 162 member countries and 18.4 million beneficiaries, he said, is a non-religious organization that works with the International Federation in Geneva as an information bank. It has been working for the last 75 years alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable in emergency-related programmes, and in national activities ranging from disaster preparedness to maternal and child care and refugee assistance.

Paying tribute to the NGOs that assist the International Federation in facing its many challenges, Mr. Al-Haddid noted that both the International Federation and the United Nations shared the same principles of universality and neutrality, requiring stronger links and a better network of worldwide infrastructures to carry out joint humanitarian missions. An even closer alliance with the United Nations system as a whole would be of mutual benefit, he concluded.

Establishing democratic institutions

This parallel session scrutinized the contributions of the United Nations and of non-governmental organizations' to the democratic process in different parts of the world. In particular, it focused on the practical aspects of laying the foundation of democracy in closed societies and the role played by the international system in ensuring the legitimacy of elections.

Drawing from human rights law, namely, article 21 of the 1948 International Declaration of Human Rights, which codified the individual's right to take part in the Government of his or her country directly or through a freely elected representative, the session focused on the steps taken by the UN to foster the development of democratic institutions at the request of Member States. Also, it explored the role of citizens and citizen groups in the establishment of democratic institutions. NGOs, vital to the maintenance of democracy, were urged to ensure that States meet their international obligations, that the democratic process be upheld and that human rights be respected. Unbound by the constraints of office and able to specialize, NGOs are free to advocate and promote issues that cross or transcend national boundaries, bringing the voice of concerned citizens to international attention and international issues to national attention.

MR. HANS CORELL, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, spoke about the role

Mr. Hans Corell

NGOs can play in the implementation of international law. This role, he said, is very important in establishing democratic institutions. In addition to the necessity of being well informed about international law, he noted, the work of the NGOs should comprise a variety of actions, such as mobilizing both Governments and public opinion by spreading the knowledge of international law among the general public. This way, Mr. Corell pointed out, decision makers are forced to observe rules they promise to obey in the field of human rights, humanitarian law, disarmament and the environment.

Also, NGOs can promote international law by advocating its inclusion in

the curricula of schools and universities. Mr. Corell urged NGOs to watch with a critical eye that international law was observed not only in national legislation and administration, but also in the judicial procedure of States.

In performing the task of enforcing the implementation of international rules, the NGOs should carefully safeguard their credibility. Credibility is especially endangered when information disseminated by the NGOs is inaccurate, Mr. Corell cautioned. This applied in particular to individual cases of alleged violations of human rights. "NGOs are indispensable actors" in the implementation of international law, he concluded, since it is through a public debate with the participation of an informed and engaged general public that democratic institutions are established.

MR. ALYN WARE, Executive Director, Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, elaborated on the role that citizens' groups are playing in the development of international law. Focusing on the field of disarmament law, as only one example among the various branches of international rules, Mr. Ware mentioned the successes that had been achieved by citizens' groups. For instance, he said, the sources of the famous First Hague Convention were to be found in a campaign of the International Peace Bureau in 1895. As an example in recent times, Mr. Ware cited the Partial Test Ban Treaty that arose out of the huge citizens' demonstrations in the early 1960s.

The development of international disarmament law was vital for international security, he said, "and the most important ingredient in reaching this goal is the people." In this regard, he referred to a widely supported NGO initiative, first suggested by the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, that aimed at obtaining an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of the use of nuclear weapons. He urged NGOs to build support for resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly that were adopted in the spirit of disarmament progress.

Hoping for successful negotiations on a convention to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons, Mr. Ware was looking forward to 1999, when such a convention would be signed at a Third Hague Peace Conference.

MS. JOSCELINE BETANCOURT, Executive Coordinator, Grupo de Iniciativa Nacional por los Derechos del Niño (GIN), Peru, emphasized the need for promoting children's rights in order to contribute to the very foundations of democracy. A societal structure that treated children with the proper respect, she explained, was a fundamental basis for peace and justice.

Ms. Betancourt pointed out that the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) was the only human rights instrument that conferred on the NGOs a central role in monitoring its implementation. She called upon the NGOs "to make their voice heard" and to present reports to the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a result of structural adjustment programmes in many developing countries, including her own, social programmes had fallen to second place, she noted. This might be one of the reasons for the contrast between "the triumph" of the application of some programmes for children, on the one hand, and the increase "of the street children", on the other hand. Thus, the NGOs, said Ms. Betancourt, should not only seek the full implementation of the above-mentioned convention, but also try to promote policies that would improve the future of the world's children.

MR. ALVARO DE SOTO, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Political Affairs, spoke about the roles of the United Nations and the NGOs played followed the cold

Mr. Alvaro de Soto

war era. A totally different set of rules is coming into being, Mr. de Soto said. For the last five years, for instance, peacekeeping operations had no longer been limited to the function of simply separating the combatants. Their function went far beyond the mere military aspect into areas that addressed the underlying causes of conflict, Mr. de Soto explained. The international community is therefore still searching under "the very elastic label of peace-keeping operations" for new parameters within which the UN should be operating. This has become all the more important since the trend of increasing involvement of the United Nations is not likely to come to a standstill, Mr. de Soto stated.

According to Mr. de Soto, one of the decisive new rules that have emerged is the growing responsibility of States for their behaviour before the "court of public opinion". Pressure is growing primarily as a result of the activities of NGOs, Mr. de Soto said, and he stressed that NGOs had always been in the vanguard of the promotion of democratic institutions.

Acknowledging that the new role of the United Nations came with a "staggering cost", Mr. de Soto urged NGOs to create the awareness within their Governments that "this cost had to be borne"; and to mobilize public opinion so that Governments could help the United Nations define its new role.

MS. LYUTHA AL-MUGHAIRY, Deputy Director, Electoral Assistance Division, United Nations Department of Peace-keeping Operations, spoke about the function of the United Nations electoral missions and how these were forming an integral part of a peace-keeping process towards durable democracy. Even if electoral processes were better sustained when they were complemented by social and economic development, the election process was in itself an important step towards democracy and thereby the maintenance of peace, Ms. Al-Mughairy emphasized.

The General Assembly had defined the UN's involvement in electoral verification as an exceptional activity, she said, an activity that generally required the agreement and request of the host country and the support of broad public opinion.

Noting that in the last three years the United Nations had received 60 requests from Member States for electoral assistance, Ms. Al-Mughairy said that the UN has also supervised, verified or observed elections in a number of countries, including Nicaragua, Haiti, Cambodia, El Salvador and Namibia. A new experience the United Nations is involved in, said Ms. Al-Mughairy, is providing support to national observers. Citing the pattern introduced in Mexico, where the United Nations provided technical and material assistance and training for local observers of national elections, Ms. Al-Mughairy said that it was the first time the UN, as a guest of the Government, had provided direct assistance to domestic NGOs and grass-roots organizations in that context. According to Ms. Al-Mughairy, this kind of support was worthy of replication as a low-cost and highly effective approach that left the main responsibility of conducting and consolidating the democratic process in the hands of national actors.

"Without peace, development cannot be sustained, and without endogenous, sustainable, equitable development, peace cannot be sustained".

Mr. Leslie Atherley

Director, Culture of Peace Programme, UNESCO

Development: another name for peace

This session focused on the issue of economic development and its relationship to a sustainable peace. The panel recognized that without a long-term, fundamental shift in social and developmental priorities, the international system would continue to face recurring crises.

Agreeing that development must have a human face and that it must be "people-centred", both speakers argued that sustainable peace could be achieved only through the social and personal benefits that accrued from economic development.

MS. MARJORIE THORPE, Deputy Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), stated that reaching and eliminating the deep sources of conflict required four major steps: enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; promoting sustainable economic and social development; alleviating distress; and curtailing the existence and use of massively destructive weapons. The underlying theme of these four principles, Ms. Thorpe said, is the elimination of discrimination against women. Respect for human rights, she stated, demands the elimination of laws, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women represent a quantum leap in the human rights agenda. The Vienna success, she said, is in no small measure a triumph for the NGO community. Concerning sustainable economic and social development, the "pivotal role" played by women hardly needs to be elaborated, since "women are architects of and contributors to the development process", she said. Yet women do not enjoy the economic and social benefits of development. She emphasized that the empowerment of women through social and economic advancement is critical to the larger development process and by extension to the larger peace process. Finally, women, she said, have an immediate interest in the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, since war casualties are no longer limited to the military but extend to the civilian population. In addition, women have an immediate interest in freeing resources regularly directed to military spending, in order to satisfy urgent social and economic needs for which women "as primary care-givers" have the principal responsibility. She called upon the NGO community to ensure that decision makers in Governments all over the world are aware of women's concerns, and to watch with vigilance that international agreements and national laws which

promote the advancement of women are translated into action.

MR. JANY GABRIEL PARISE, President, Organisation Mondiale des Experts-Conseils-Arbitres (OMECA), questioned whether economic development could actually be considered as a "factor in the peace process". In examining the most frequent causes of conflicts in many parts of the world, he presented a number "of paradoxes which cannot be ignored", he said. He argued that national feelings, territorial claims and ideologies had always been the cause of bloody confrontations. Wars are caused by "many different factors which have nothing to do with economics, regardless of the degree of economic development", said Mr. Parise. Further, he suggested that war could sometimes spur formidable economic development. Major defence programmes — space-related or aeronautical — he said, were a driving force for the remainder of the economy. As there were many technologies with both civilian and military applications and "the borderline between military and civilian research has been erased", the national economies benefited from their combined results, he explained. By contrast, he said, the cancellation or significant cut back of defence budgets, as was the case with Germany and Japan after the Second World War, could also spur economic growth. Wars were often due to severe economic distress, Mr. Parise emphasized. In certain countries facing an overwhelming economic crisis, said Mr. Parise, war "with its depredations seems an attractive solution". On the other hand, "fast-growing economies have never managed to prevent wars". To cope with international conflicts, Mr. Parise proposed the creation of a "general assistance strategy" that would focus primarily on health, education, vocational training, culture and education in the practice of democracy and political expression.

NGOs: catalysts for public understanding

THE THIRD PLENARY SESSION *examined the role of NGOs in the field of communications. Serving as both a platform for the examination of the character of NGO informational activity and an introduction to the themes examined in the subsequent parallel sessions, this meeting dedicated itself to the study of the links between information and social action.*

It focused in particular on the means by which information could be brought to the individual, be made personal and motivate him or her to action.

Whether educating or informing, the panel agreed, the role of communication is to provide the individual with the necessary data to permit him or her to draw an independent conclusion. It is the role of NGOs and of the United Nations to build a framework "in the minds of men" which is conducive to the creation of a culture of peace.

Complementarily, it was by cooperating with the media that NGOs could contribute to this process by disseminating information and prompting public debate and understanding of critical social issues. In time, such cooperation would contribute to the resolution of these issues by mobilizing individuals and creating leaders and new modes of thought at all levels.

MR. LESLIE ATHERLEY, Director, Culture of Peace Programme, UNESCO, speaking on behalf of UNESCO's Director-General, Mr. Federico Mayor, presented an outline of the Programme, which had been developed in response to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's *An Agenda for Peace*. "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defence of peace must be constructed", Mr. Atherley said , quoting UNESCO's constitution, and added that his hope was to see the presence of a culture of peace, where the natural response to conflict would be non-violent.

The "Culture of Peace Programme" of UNESCO had a threefold purpose, Mr. Atherley stated:

(a) Coordinating various activities of UNESCO in its peace-building effort;
(b) Establishing national Culture of Peace Programmes in association with the United Nations system; and
(c) Developing a network and information system to link with other organizations involved in similar efforts.

In areas emerging from conflict, as well as in those where the potential for conflict was real, the Programme would provide a setting in which members on all sides could discuss issues and share ideas. Its activities would centre on education for all ages, as well as on the training of development workers in the principles and practices of a culture of peace, so they could operate as "peace promoters".

Mr. Atherley stressed the importance of NGOs in the implementation of the Culture of Peace Programme. Referring to education as a key element of the Programme, he welcomed the contribution of NGOs involved in both formal and non-formal education activities, especially at the grass-roots level. Through cooperation, Mr. Atherley concluded, the United Nations, Governments and NGOs could create a common vision which could give birth to a full-fledged culture of peace.

MS. ELIZABETH REID, Director, HIV and Development Programme, UNDP, said that in order for NGOs to become catalysts for public understanding with respect to the AIDS epidemic, it is not enough to play the role of warning mechanisms. NGOs, she said, have to promote public understanding that as all people are affected, one way or another, they themselves should become the activists and the agents of change. Ms. Reid said there are three reasons why NGOs worldwide have been "so extremely slow" in responding to the HIV epidemic:

(a) AIDS had been portrayed and viewed as a health problem and not as a problem of social change;
(b) AIDS had been viewed as a problem affecting certain individuals rather than as a problem to be faced by communities as a whole;
(c) Some NGOs had tended to view HIV as a problem of moral degradation.

As the epidemic is a complex phenomenon to which there is no likeness in living memory, Ms. Reid urged NGOs to become real catalysts for public understanding. "We must be touched in such a way that we become engaged", she said, and gave the example of a small village community in Africa where, gradually, families had started to help each other

instead of ignoring the ill, as they used to do before. Ms. Reid expressed her hope that the NGO community would consider itself like those African villagers, who, once they become involved with AIDS, now try to prevent more of their villagers from becoming infected.

MS. RAGHIDA DERGHAM, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent, *Al-Hayat*, stated that the media are to some extent in the same situation as the non-governmental organizations: both are expected to play the role of a catalyst for public understanding, and both have to cope with many difficulties. But most of all, they both have to ask themselves who they are and what role they should play in the post-cold-war era, she said.

In citing these parallels, Ms. Dergham explored the role of the media and their relations to the public, Governments, the UN system and the NGOs. Whatever the image of the media might be, she said, it has to be recognized that they do not operate in a vacuum. They exercise certain influences on the public, as well as on government policies.

Thus having stressed the importance of the media, Ms. Dergham advised the United Nations and the NGOs to build up "an intelligent partnership" with the media. "NGOs are often frustrated by the lack of interest journalists have towards many of the NGOs' causes", she said, and added that she would like to suggest a new approach on how to capture the media's interest: NGOs have better chances of being paid attention to, she said, if they address themselves to the specialized or local media on a particular issue of concern. Environmentalists, for instance, had succeeded in "making their presence felt" when they politicized their concerns. She cautioned NGOs not to expect the media to be interested in concepts, "however lofty they were", since they hardly "made a story", stated Ms. Dergham.

She urged NGOs and the UN to engage the media as an essential partner towards conflict resolution and preventive diplomacy.

Informing the public

This session examined the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the media in their effort to educate and inform public opinion. Arguing that the primary and most obvious role of NGOs is the promotion of public understanding, the session explored the vehicles by which these organizations could provide complementary, supplementary or alternative information to the material presented by the commercial media.

> *"It is the mission of the NGOs to supplement, complement or provide alternative points of view to the commercial press."*
>
> **Mr. James M. Olson**

MS. SALLY SWING SHELLEY, United Nations Correspondent, Voice of Germany (Deutsche Welle), pointed to the interdependence between media and the work of the non-governmental organizations by showing the different ways in which they could or should complement one another. She defined news as "what's different" or "unusual". Stressing that the media are not interested in something "that wasn't a story", she advised NGOs to learn how "to make news" by, for instance, "hitching their message to a celebrity", conducting a survey or carrying out humanitarian relief work, in order to attract public attention. She also urged NGOs to get to know the correspondents of those media they want to cover their stories. She promised it would bear fruit at a time when an expert was required to explain or comment upon events. She noted that NGOs, people "who have a cause", could profit from their advocacy role, since the media always want to tell both sides of a story and therefore are only "too glad to get advocates in radio or television talk shows". In closely cooperating with the media, NGOs can increase their effectiveness in society, she stated. This could be felt in the progress seen in the environmental field since 1972, when the first UN environmental meeting took place.

To secure news coverage of NGO events, Ms. Swing Shelley advised NGOs to compile a press list, call correspondents and send personal invitations. This way, she said, NGOs could succeed in getting "on the wire" and have their news picked up worldwide.

MR. JAMES M. OLSON, Executive Director of National Programmes, United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), said that informing the public is the most obvious and the most important role that NGOs can play. It is the NGOs' mission to supplement, complement or provide alternative points of view to what is presented in the commercial press. The very fact that commercial newspapers cannot offer enough of what the public wants makes "NGO journalism" all the more important. With the amazing variety of printed NGO materials, conferences and meetings, a noteworthy contribution over the 50 years of UN history has been made. At the community level, Mr. Olson noted the

invaluable work of NGOs in the field of education. In addition to the increasing presence of NGOs and the continued support they provide to the United Nations, Mr. Olson said there are four emerging opportunities that the NGOs have to seize. First, they must use new communication technologies such as videos, computers and facsimile machines. Also, he urged NGOs to utilize the Fiftieth Aniversary of the United Nations as an "organizational lifetime opportunity" for people to work together. Thirdly, he advised the NGOs to work closely with the 80 United Nations Associations all over the world, and, finally, he recommended that NGOs "team up" with the Department of Public Information and consider it as a resource and an ally.

MR. C. FREDERIC JOHN, Director, International Division of Yankelovich Partners Inc., said that as a representative of an international group of companies that gather information through surveys for marketing purposes, as well as to educate public opinion on a wide range of issues, he would speak on how the public informed or educated the leadership on where it stood on policy issues.

Mr. John said that polls had an increasing impact on governmental policies, especially on war and peace issues. Often democratically elected leaders are sooner or later forced to assess the support of the public, he said, by resorting to public polls, even though they sometimes claim that polls are shallow, superficial and simplistic.

Since the mechanism of polls could be seen as a process of negotiation between government and the electorate, he said, that process of "interplay" might possibly be influenced by other parties, such as NGOs, the financial community and, of course, the media. According to Mr. John, public opinion has become an increasingly important factor in shaping public policy, which could be to the advantage of NGOs as a dynamic, effective way to make their voice heard.

Early warning from the field

This parallel session examined the role of NGOs as communicators and presented specific aspects of their work as early warning mechanisms. As independent actors with independent sources of information, NGOs often voice their concerns and draw the attention of the international community to issues that are yet to be recognized.

Because of their intimate knowledge of the countries in which NGOs operate, the United Nations has often relied on them during the initial stages of an operation to serve as links with the local population due to their prior connections with the people of a region. In addition, NGOs serve as contacts to maintain long-term UN projects after a UN mission has been ended.

MS. GERTRUDE MONGELLA, Secretary-General, Fourth World Conference on Women, addressed the 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference on the subject of the contribution of women to the development of global peace. According to Ms. Mongella, the work and the strength of women in the networks for peace, disarmament and the promotion of development in a peaceful environment have been largely neglected.

Ms. Gertrude Mongella

The women's conference in Beijing would address the issues of equality, development and peace. But it was peace that was the precursor for all other elements. Without peace, there could not be equality; without peace, development was impossible, she explained. Ms. Mongella also emphasized the interdependent roles that women play in decision-making and the preservation of peace. NGOs, said Ms. Mongella, are truly democratic, where the voice of women can be heard. NGOs are vehicles for the empowerment of women and for the expression of their strength.

MR. BENON VAHE SEVAN, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Administration and Management, said that United Nations services in the field have always relied on the input of the NGOs in terms of developing an effective and immediate response in crisis situations. Talking from experience in working with NGOs when he was serving the United Nations in Afghanistan, he said that NGOs were often present before, during and after a given crisis. The concept of early warning from the field would be non-existent if not for the presence of NGOs on the ground, he said. Furthermore, the United Nations counted on input of the NGO community regarding the security assessment of a certain situation on the ground, particularly in the de-mining programmes, since they are in touch with the people at the grass roots.

Mr. Sevan emphasized the importance of the collaboration between the United Nations and the NGO community, and called for joint action plans in

Mr. Benon Vahe Sevan

the field, where views and expertise could be exchanged, particularly in the event of carrying out evacuation plans. He also suggested that NGOs could be invaluable if included in the United Nations security management plans in the field.

"We are in this business together", Mr. Sevan said. He urged NGOs "to stand by the United Nations" even when situations on the ground were not perfect. NGOs should understand the difficulties and constraints, whether political or financial, faced by the United Nations in certain situations. On the other hand, the United Nations should also be sensitive to the difficulties NGOs might face in carrying out their work, he said. It is time for NGOs and the United Nations to "put their hands together" and work in partnership because, Mr. Sevan stated, "Unless we work together, we will fail."

MR. KEVIN SANDERS, Director of Special Projects, the War and Peace Foundation, said that NGOs had to "assume the role of the media" to ensure the dissemination of issues which they consider important. Addressing the issue of early warning, Mr. Sanders said that, over the last 50 years, if one would look into such issues as nuclear threat, waste disposal and the environment, one would find that they were first brought up in NGO meetings and not in meetings of the Security Council or the General Assembly or even in the mainstream media. It was thus in the NGO meetings that "we hear the voices of 'We the Peoples', he noted. It is essential that the NGO community "become the media", Mr. Sanders advocated.

In this regard he reported on World Span, a project being set up by the War and Peace Foundation, consisting of a worldwide television and radio service to cover the proceedings of the United Nations and its agencies, as well as the World Court. This, he said, is part of an effort to promote the widest public understanding of issues that are usually ignored by the media. Similar to the impact of C-Span in the United States, World Span would help in "achieving electronic democracy" in different parts of the world, Mr. Sanders said. "It will be through the World Span that the voices of 'We the Peoples' will be heard", he added.

Creating a culture of peace

The third parallel session of the second day of the 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference was devoted to the examination of the requirements for the establishment of a culture of peace. The speakers specified steps to be taken in order to transform the current international structure into one that was more amenable to the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

In addition, the presenters called for leadership, both from NGOs and from the UN, in order to facilitate the desired change in the international system. Citing the centrality of vision to the exercise of leadership, the session challenged NGOs to raise issues, generate ideas and propose solutions.

MS. KHADIJA HAQ, Senior Adviser on Education, UNICEF, emphasized that a new culture of peace could not be achieved without the full participation of women. Women, she said, have a big stake in peace since they are often the victims of conflicts. In addition to losing brothers, husbands and sons and thereby, often, their very livelihood, they often are victims of violence and rape. Since such violence against women is a major obstacle to the achievement of peace, Ms. Haq called for measures to guarantee the respect for women's rights. If women's rights were elevated to the same status of universal human rights and granted full international and legal legitimacy, she argued, war rapes would be treated as crimes against humanity and prosecuted under international law. Ms. Haq called upon women to participate fully in the process of building peace, "as the choices must be made by women themselves, not made for them". She urged women to become politically involved, so as to help elect more women or more gender-sensitized men to parliaments. Female education is a necessary ingredient for the empowerment of women, she stressed, calling upon the NGOs to raise their collective voice to earmark at

"The NGOs' success of having become a full participant in international life should not seduce them into distancing themselves from the people they wish to represent."

Dame Ruth Nita Barrow

least 3 per cent of the future peace dividend for additional investment in female education.

Noting the need for an adequate institutional machinery at the international and national levels for formulating and implementing policies and strategies for women's empowerment and development, Ms. Haq called for the creation of a "single, integrated, highly visible UN agency for the advancement of women".

MR. T. KUMAR, Representative, Peace Bridges International, stressed that the resolution of conflicts is the best way to create a culture of peace. Mr. Kumar called upon NGOs to raise their voices on behalf of the weak and the poor in a crisis situation. Alluding to the situation in Haiti, Mr. Kumar expressed his disappointment at the "frequent failures of politicians, the United Nations and NGOs" in establishing and maintaining peace. However, he maintained his belief that an NGO or even an individual might be successful in forcing Governments to adopt policies where the respect of human rights is put into practice. "It should not happen that in crisis areas the civilians are left helpless", Mr. Kumar said.

He urged NGOs not to allow the United Nations "to be used as a cover", and invited them to seize the opportunity of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations and advocate the "broadening of the Security Council" or "take the power back to the General Assembly".

Mr. Robert Muller

MR. ROBERT MULLER, Chancellor, University of Peace, said that creating a culture of peace depended on people and their ideas. He called upon NGOs to "come up every day with a new idea and dedicate your entire life to it". In reviewing the world situation, he insisted that "there is hope" despite the many conflicts around the world and the mistakes that have been made throughout history. The human race, Mr. Muller said, has the consciousness and the intelligence to correct past and present mistakes. These mistakes, although global in nature, such as racial and gender discrimination, militarization, waste and environmental degradation, violence and extreme poverty, should be addressed globally, continentally, nationally, locally and individually. He advised "each human to consult his or her own heart and work together to correct these mistakes".

Fifty years ago, he said, the world was sceptical about how long the United Nations would last, mainly because "humanity in the last century did not prepare itself for the twentieth century". He maintained, however, that the world is now better prepared for the next century, and even the next millennium, because of the cooperation between nations and organizations in all areas, proven by the increase in the number of international conferences taking place in the present and in the years to come.

Summary statement

DR. KAY C. GREENE, Representative, World Federation of Mental Health, and President, 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, gave a round-up of the various topics addressed during the Conference. Noting that NGOs represented the "active movement for peace", she urged the participants to make of the Conference a "bridge from discussion to action".

Dr. Kay C. Greene

Being inspired at the Conference's planning process by Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali's *An Agenda for Peace*, Dr. Greene highlighted the many recommendations which had been cited by the Conference's speakers and reiterated a number of urgent priorities which had to be addressed by the NGO community, including the need to build adequate institutions to ensure that the police and military forces in the world functioned under an agenda for peace that had, at its centre, the protection of human rights.

The world had to make progress from relief to rehabilitation, recovery and development, she said, and urged NGOs to assist countries in order to prevent emergency conditions from occurring. NGOs could be utilized as instruments of early warning, she said, advising the UN, Governments and NGOs to be involved "in peace actions long enough to be effective". In this regard, she urged NGOs to demand that Member States pay their full dues to the United Nations so that the Organization could have the funds to prepare for future problems and disasters rather than being forced "to wait for the cheapest bidder".

Dr. Greene stressed the interdependence between peace and the contributions of women and children. "Violation of women's human rights should be punishable under international law", she said, and urged women to seek political office so they could be "present at all negotiating tables".

Further, there was a need, stressed Dr. Greene, for a "mass social awareness of children's needs and of children's rights" as elaborated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. "When we nurture children, we nurture human progress", she said.

"We must be wise to heed the visions of indigenous people", she said, emphasizing the need to promote the rules of nature and rescue the voices of the rich cultures "which might disappear when we impoverish the land".

On the role of NGOs in promoting public understanding, Dr. Greene agreed that "people cannot work towards something they cannot envision". Thus, she called upon NGOs to learn from the media and translate lofty philosophies into specific images that could touch people's hearts and minds.

Regional statements

HER EXCELLENCY DAME RUTH NITA BARROW, Governor-General of Barbados, representing the voice of non-governmental organizations of the Latin American and Caribbean regions, chose to speak on the hopes and aspirations of the least advantaged women of all regions. She stressed the need to alleviate the daily challenges faced by women living in extreme poverty. Women in these regions had to live every day with increasing violence on the streets, in the home and in the community, and were the first to experience the effects of the growing drug malice and the proliferation of weapons used by gangs, she explained. In order to alleviate these conditions, the Governor-General stressed the need to focus on "making people self-supporting and therefore self-respecting, not welfare recipients". She also advocated the need to divert military spending to the provision of housing, water and electricity, to finance

Her Excellency Dame Ruth Nita Barrow

measures in order to increase the average family income and to develop basic health programmes and basic infrastructure. She called upon NGOs to be advocates of democratic change, so that leaders of different nations would be held accountable and would know and respond to people's needs.

Since NGOs had become full participants in international life, they therefore had taken on grave responsibilities. The change from an outsider status to becoming a full participant in the conduct of international affairs "should not seduce the NGOs into distancing themselves from the experience of the very people they wish to represent", Mrs. Barrow explained. She reminded the NGOs "to go to the people, to talk with them and work with them", bring the people into the decision making process and make them part of "We the Peoples", building peace, security and a better future.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS BASMA BINT TALAL, Chairperson, Queen Alia Fund for Social Development, opened her statement by saying

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal

how much the people in the Middle East appreciated the theme of the Conference, since it was an area of the world that had rarely enjoyed comprehensive peace. Peace in this region, lying at the crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa, she said, not only would benefit the countries directly involved, but would transcend those boundaries to the world at large. Thus, it was the responsibility of the world community and particularly the NGOs to ensure the sustainability of peace in that region by encouraging development efforts that were directed towards social integration and the eradication of poverty and unemployment. She stressed the interdependence between the maintenance of international peace and security and economic and social development, stating there there could not be one without the other.

The Middle East had been through a number of challenging situations, which were no different from those of many countries in the third world, she said, due to the imbalance between the limited natural resources and population growth in the region. She stressed the need for the introduction and transfer of appropriate technologies. The peace process in the Middle East, however, requires not only a change of attitudes, Princess Basma stated, but also the creation of common interests through regional and bilateral cooperation.

"Peace resides ultimately not in the hands of Governments, but in the hands of the people", said Princess Basma in echoing King Hussein of Jordan, and stressed that development could thrive only if was "people-centred". Especially because of their pragmatic approach, NGOs could help in meeting the challenges faced by the world at the threshold of the twenty-first century. Princess Basma called for the expansion of the role of NGOs as "they are the main channel by which new approaches, ideas and solutions are activated at the grass-roots levels". She called upon NGOs to focus on formulating "new educational approaches" which would eventually lead to a new cultural framework that would enhance a culture of peace.

MS. MARIAPIA FANFANI, President, Insieme per la pace (Together for Peace Foundation), explored the long and multifaceted European tradition of provi-

Ms. Mariapia Fanfani

sion of aid for developing countries, particularly in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and aid to refugees. In this connection, she stressed the substantial agreement between the United Nations and the European Union with regard to the role played by NGOs in the world. Echoing the Commission of Brussels, Ms. Fanfani suggested that NGOs are indispensable in all countries where human rights are violated. "Only NGOs are able to guarantee the distribution of aid to the population, avoiding the involvement of Governments", she said. Stressing the relationship between peace and development, she suggested that international cooperation is vital to the construction of peace. Ms. Fanfani advised NGOs to work within the framework of their Governments. "Collaboration between the State and its citizens, between the public and private structures, is necessary to achieve their

objectives in relieving the suffering of people or helping in the growth of a new democracy", she explained. "Peace is built by declaring war on war", Ms. Fanfani said, calling upon NGOs to struggle against every type of injustice, such as poverty, misery and inequality. The world was a miniature village in which the fate of each depended on and effected the fate of all. Every effort had to be made to build peace by preventive work, Ms. Fanfani concluded.

DR. OKORIE O. OKORIE, Director-General, International Agency for Rural Industrialization (INARI), focused his address on the African perspective of "We the Peoples: Building Peace", in the context of the African nations. There were three main reasons why peace had eluded Africa for so long, he said, including:

(a) Politics; particularly the impact of colonialism, which was followed by civilian and military dictatorships;

(b) Social unrest due to tribal wars and civil strife, the yoke of racism and apartheid, as well as language barriers

(c) The plundering of natural resources, as well as the structural adjustment programmes.

Other reasons contributing to the present situation in Africa were, he noted, religious intolerance and environmental degradation.

While noting with regret the minimal impact of NGOs in building peace in Africa, he paid tribute to national and international NGOs which addressed economic problems, as means to sustaining the peace process in some African countries. NGOs can contribute to the building of the peace process in Africa only when, and if, there is a disciplined political and economic leadership, in a democratic society that is sensitive to the aspirations of its people and tolerant of both its political and social diversity.

Addressing the third day of the 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference are, from left, Mrs. Arnaz Marker, Dr. Kay Greene, Mr. Walter Hickel, Dr. Okorie Okorie and Mr. L. Vincent Piola.

MRS. ARNAZ MARKER, President, All Pakistan Women's Association, said there was a symbiotic relationship between peace, development and justice, suggesting that NGOs form a basic part of that relationship. Focusing on the three facets of peace presented in Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's *Agenda for Peace* — peacemaking, peace-keeping, and peace-building — Mrs. Marker noted that while Governments had the primary responsibility for conflict prevention, controlling the situation when conflict broke out and post-conflict development, the NGOs, as non-traditional actors, had an increasingly important role to play in all three stages. This assistance, she pointed out, could be provided through educational programmes and information campaigns which would encourage the creation of conditions conducive to peace. Creative and peaceful approaches to conflict prevention, management and resolution, she said, could be supplemented by NGOs, as they also addressed the socio-economic and psychological dimensions of conflicts.

"Social solidarity was the key for peace-building, peace was more than the absence of violence, peace was a positive force"

Princess Basma Bint Talal

Addressing the element of peace-keeping, Mrs. Marker paid tribute to NGOs in situations of conflict, especially in Somalia, Cambodia and Rwanda, and suggested that NGO involvement in the UN peace-keeping operations should be encouraged, as it took some of the burden off the UN system. In building a lasting peace, Mrs. Marker stressed, NGOs "had no magic wand"; rather they were the "key link in the chain of integrated actions necessary for the complex task of building a secure and stable peace in the world".

MR. WALTER J. HICKEL, Governor of Alaska and Chairman, The Northern Forum, representing the voice of the Arctic, called on the world community, including the NGOs, to adopt a universal environmental equation that addresses the total environment: people, people's needs and nature. "The Arctic does not

compete with the world for people, but the Arctic is rich with the resources people need", he said. He criticized the numerous "Arctic preservation strategies", which, he said, "threaten both the Arctic's potential and its people". To build peace, "we must really build it", he said. He suggested the building of "big projects", which are not necessarily "politically correct" in some quarters. To the people of the far North, however, the power of a big project could change a society. Following the example of the Trans-Siberia Railroad and the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, the Governor suggested the building of "transcontinental long line energy grids", which would help in the transfer of fresh water and vast resources of natural gas from the North to the South. He also advocated the building of a "rail tunnel beneath the Bering Sea", to ease the transport of people and goods between the North and the South. By harvesting "the wealth of northern resources" while preserving the values of the old and welcoming the new, "the Arctic — no longer ignored — can paerticipate in a world-wide effort to build peace for all people", he concluded.

Concluding statements

HER EXCELLENCY MRS. MARY ROBINSON, President of Ireland, introduced her message by pointing to the need to define the term "peace", since, at

Her Excellency Mrs. Mary Robinson

present, peace is more of an abstract phrase than a workable programme, she said. It was not the theory she was worried about, rather the harsh truth of the enormous inequality of distribution of even the most basic resources esprcially ly water. To build peace, she noted, the world has to take into account that "many of the peoples on this planet have not even the strength to build. They have barely the strength to survive." Therefore, "all of us" have to look squarely at the notion "We the Peoples" from the time it was written in the Charter, and the adoption of the sovereign territorial State, to the growing acceptance that "State sovereignty cannot be absolute". Absolute sovereignty, she said, is gradually vanishing with the globalization of markets and a parallel globalization of human concern. This concern, she explained, is best represented by the NGOs and their collective energies towards the provision of humanitarian aid. However, the logical linkages between the NGO community and the established institutions of peacebuilding still need deepening and intensification in the light of the many strengths that NGOs have. Noting NGOs' strength as catalysts for information and public understanding, she urged them to gather, assess and disseminate detailed factual information in a more structured way.

President Robinson emphasized that NGOs needed not only to be represented, but to be listened to in the "corridors of power". Therefore, since listening was a "two-way process", President Robinson reminded the NGOs to be accountable to the communities they spoke for and served. Also, she advised NGOs to work in partnership within the priorities and programmes of the respective national Governments in order to be fully effective. Because of their ability to fine-tune their development programmes to meet local conditions, NGOs are well placed to achieve these aims.

The pillars of peacebuilding are not to be found in the brilliance of any idea or in people alone; rather it is the working together of both. President Robinson called for ideas that are based on a global ethic based on a discourse of compassion, without which "our efforts for peace cannot really succeed."

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. AMARA ESSY, President of the forty-ninth Session of the General Assembly and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, expressed his desire to strengthen the partnership between States and non-governmental organizations. All efforts, he said, should be pooled together so that the major goals sought by the

His Excellency Mr. Amara Essy

United Nations in the areas of peace, development and the promotion and protection of human rights could be achieved. Mr. Essy stressed that the role played by the NGOs is increasingly relevant in helping find and implement responses to the global challenges confronting the international community. This role had become irreplaceable in the areas of preventive action, peace-keeping and peace-building. In situations where there are conflicts between armed groups acting out of partisan, community or ethnic motives, NGOs are well placed to help find political and social solutions, due to their flexible intervention procedure and familiarity with the sociocultural environment of the situation on the ground. Secondly, NGOs are best at mobilizing national public opinion in favour of development cooperation, making them the best advocates of international solidarity. Lastly, NGOs provide the United Nations, and, through it, the international community, with the necessary stimulus to rethink its methods, procedures and strategies, thus allowing for the necessary process of reform. A peaceful world, he concluded, requires synergy between States, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Introduction and welcome address

VINCENT PIOLA,
Coordinator, 47th DPI/NGO Conference; and Chief, Non-Governmental Organizations Section, Department of Public Information, United Nations

KAY C. GREENE,
President, 47th DPI/NGO Conference; and Representative of The World Federation For Mental Health

GORDON KLOPF,
Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee; and Representative of The World Organization for Early Childhood Education

SAMIR SANBAR,
Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Public Information, United Nations

We the peoples: Building peace

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

H.E. BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI
Secretary-General, United Nations

SPEAKERS:

BERNHARD KOUCHNER,
President, Association pour l'Aide Humanitaire and Member of the European Parliament

JOËLLE TANGUY,
Executive Director, Médecins sans Frontières

PLENARY SESSION

Peace-making, peace-keeping, and post-conflict peace-building

MODERATOR:

VINCENT M. PIOLA,
Coordinator, 47th DPI/NGO Conference; and Chief, Non-Governmental Organizations Section, Department of Public Information, United Nations

SPEAKERS

IQBAL RIZA,
Assistant-Secretary-General, Department of Peace-Keeping Operation, United Nations

SOREN JESSEN-PETERSEN,
Director of the UNHCR Liaison Office, New York

BIANCA JAGGER,
Human Rights Advocate and Film Producer

PIERRE SANÉ,
Secretary-General, Amnesty International

A special briefing: Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations

SPEAKER

GILLIAN MARTIN SORENSEN,
Under-Secretary-General, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, United Nations

MORNING PLENARY SESSION

The essential continuum: from emergencies to long-term sustainable human development

CHAIR

PREMINDER NATH JAIN,
Vice-President of the 47th Annual DPI/NGO Conference; and Representative of the International Mahavir Jain Mission

MODERATOR

VINCENT M. PIOLA,
Coordinator, 47th DPI/NGO Conference; and Chief, Non-Governmental Organizations Section, Department of Public Information, United Nations

SPEAKERS

PETER HANSEN,
Under-Secretary-General, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations

INGRID WASHINAWATOK,
Chair, NGO Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

INGE KAUL,
Director, Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION I: Humanitarian assistance

MODERATOR

MARGERY COHEN,
Representative of the League of Women Voters of the United States

SPEAKERS

RICHARD JOLLY,
Deputy Executive Director for Programmes, UNICEF

PAULO V. C. COSTA,
Trustee, Rotary International

BRIAN O. WALSH,
Chairman of the Working Group on World Refugees, Caritas Internationalis

MOHMMED AL-HADID,
Vice President, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; and President of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society

PARALLEL SESSION II: Establishing democratic institutions

MODERATOR

DORRIE WEISS,
Representative of Economists Allied for Arms Reduction

SPEAKERS

HANS CORELL,
Under-Secretay-General for Legal Affairs, and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations

ALYN WARE,
Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy

JOSCELINE BETANCOURT,
Executive Coordinator for the Grupo de Iniciativa Nacional por los Derechos del Niño

ALVARO DE SOTO,
Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations

LYUTHA AL-MUGHAIRY,
Deputy Director, Electoral Assistance Division, United Nations

PARALLEL SESSION III: Development is another name for peace

MODERATOR

ROB CLARK,
Representative of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

SPEAKERS

MARJORIE THORPE,
Deputy Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

JANY GABRIEL PARISE,
President of Organisation Mondiale des Experts-Conseils-Arbritres (OMECA)

AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION

NGOs: catalysts for public understanding

MODERATOR

MIAN QADRUD-DIN,
Director, Promotion and Public Services Division, DPI

SPEAKERS

LESLIE ATHERLEY,
Director, Culture of Peace Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

ELIZABETH REID,
Director, HIV and Development Programme, UNDP

RAGHIDA DERGHAM,
Senior Diplomatic Correspondent for the London-based *Al-Hayat* newspaper

PARALLEL SESSIONS

PARALLEL SESSION I: Informing the public

MODERATOR

RICHARD HAHNEN,
Director, United Nations Support Campaign for Pax World Service

SPEAKERS

SALLY SWING SHELLY,
United Nations Correspondent for Deutsche Welle

JAMES M. OLSON,
Executive Director, National Programmes, United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA)

FREDERIC JOHN,
Director, International Division, Yankelovich Partners Inc.

PARALLEL SESSION II: Early warning from the field

MODERATOR

BARBARA BURNS,
Representative of the International Public Relations Association, New York

SPEAKERS

GERTRUDE MONGELLA,
Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), United Nations

BENON VAHE SEVAN,
Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Administration and Management, United Nations

KEVIN SANDERS,
Director of Special Projects for the War and Peace Foundation

PARALLEL SESSION III: Creating a culture of peace

MODERATOR

GLORIA GARCIA,
Representative of the Congregation of St. Joseph

SPEAKERS

T. KUMAR,
Peace Bridges International

KHADIJA HAQ,
Senior Adviser on Education, UNICEF

ROBERT MULLER,
Chancellor of the University of Peace, Costa Rica

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SPEAKER

KAY C. GREENE,
President, 47th DPI/NGO Conference and Representative of the World Federation for Mental Health

REGIONAL STATEMENTS

SPEAKERS

FROM LATIN AMERICA/CARRIBEAN:
H.E. Dame Ruth Nita Barrow, Governor-General of Barbados

FROM WESTERN ASIA:
H.R.H. Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan, Chairperson, The Queen Alia Fund for Social Development

FROM EUROPE:
Mariapia Fanfani, President, Together for Peace Foundation

FROM AFRICA:
Okorie Okorie, Director General, International Agency for Rural Industrialization (INARI)

FROM ASIA/PACIFIC:
Arnaz Marker, President, All Pakistan Women's Association

FROM ARCTIC CIRCLE:
Walter J.Hickel, Governor of Alaska and Chairman, Northern Forum

CLOSING STATEMENTS

SPEAKERS

H.E. MARY ROBINSON,
President of Ireland

H.E. AMARA ESSY,
President of the 49th Session of the General Assembly

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